



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

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## Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on June 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall (Senior Center). The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Ben Terry, Mark Lombari and Christine Lichatz. Spencer Morris and Kathleen Tucciarone were absent. Mo Clare was in attendance. Darby Pontes and Tom McNamara were in attendance as guests.

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2014**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on May 20, 2014 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Terry, and all members were in favor.

### **2. Discussion of Bristol Warren Art Night**

Darby Pontes and Tom McNamara discussed Bristol Warren Art Night, which is in its third season. They stated that the operating budget for the current year is \$15,000.00. Currently, there are 20 individual artist members and 20 gallery members supporting the event. Mr. McNamara commented that the entire state is now a tax free art district, and the event has been positive for both Bristol and Warren as neighboring communities. Mr. McNamara, director of the Brass, emphasized the successful collaboration between Art Night and the Brass. Mr. McNamara and Ms. Pontes asked the EDB to help with the reinstallation of the banners on the Main Street light posts. Ms. Dionne recommended that they email both the Town Manager and the Department of Public Works. The next Art Night event is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Pontes and Mr. McNamara left the meeting at this time.

### **3. Discussion of the status of Business Outreach projects**

According to Ms. Dionne, at the present time there is \$800.00 in funds for hanging planter, and also \$1,800.00 available for a new sign for the front of Town Hall. Mr. Lombari asked several questions about the location and direction of the new sign for Town Hall. The board discussed the plans to landscape Town Hall. Mr. Clare said that the Department of Public Works has plans to take out the old landscaping in the near future. There is currently \$461.00 in the EDB budget for this year. After some discussion about the best use for the funds, Ms. Volino made a motion to use the remaining \$461.00 by July 1<sup>st</sup> to refurbish and restore the sign at the kiosk on Railroad Avenue.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry, and all members were in favor. Mr. Lombardi will make certain that the town is given invoices for the sign for Town Hall and the kiosk sign. Ms. Dionne stated that she would check with Caroline Wells regarding bike racks and benches for Franklin Street.

#### **4. Discussion regarding Town Hall liaison and process of EDB working in coordination with town officials**

The board discussed the issue of the loss of Mr. Clare's position as Town Hall liaison. The board agreed that Mr. Clare was a valuable resource; Ms. Dionne suggested writing a letter to the paper to emphasize the importance of a town hall liaison in developing business relationships in the community. The board also discussed the upcoming Roger Williams Community Partnership Program. Without a full time town planner, zoning official, and economic development coordinator, the board questioned whether the Town Hall would be able to utilize student interns. The board agreed to present a letter to the Town Council and the Town Manager regarding the status of the student intern program.

#### **5. Discussion regarding open board positions and recruitment of new board members**

Ms. Dionne asked the board members to help recruit new members to fill the open board positions on the EDB.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Dionne, the motion was seconded by Mr. Lombardi, and all members were in favor.

The next meeting of the EDB is scheduled for Monday, July 21, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald  
July 19, 2014



